

# SYNAPTA SRL

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Synapta Srl is an Italian innovative start-up founded in Turin in February 2016 as a spin-off of the Nexa Center for Internet & Society at Politecnico di Torino. Synapta is focused on software development and data integration projects using Linked Data technologies (in analogy with Synapta's tagline "linked data for real", which is part of its registered European Trademark). The core activities of Synapta concern data retrieval, cleaning, curation and integration/interlinking, enriching data on the basis of open or proprietary sources. Moreover, Synapta develops front-ends to access linked data hiding their complexity to ordinary users, but respecting the W3C standards to leverage interoperability and reducing lock-in. The keyword of Synapta's value proposition are: interoperability and standards, lock-in reduction, sustainability of the "technical debt" moving intelligence from the code to the data, and focusing on data quality investing on core data and interlinking with external data sources. Public-Contracts.com is Synapta's knowledge graph and semantic search engine focused on public procurement. It allows every Italian citizen to finally know how public administrations are spending his or her money. And it represents a powerful business intelligence tools for public administrations and their suppliers. The integration of data at the European level is ongoing, and we aim at studying the feasibility of an internationalization plan targeting to selected countries.

Public-Contracts.com was originally born as Synapta's social innovation project and as a useful demonstrator of the potential of Linked Data based on Open Data (and therefore easier to kick-start and showcase, e.g., making most data freely accessible online).

During the first year of activity of Synapta, however, custom projects based Public-Contracts.com and the (non-exclusive) licensing of the related data became one of the main sources of revenue for Synapta.

To date, Public-Contracts.com is our flagship project, and in 2018 Synapta benefited from an investment plan by the Oltre Venture investment fund, the first Italian company of Social Venture Capital, with the aim of consolidating product development and launching it on the market.

Mainly thanks to Public-Contracts.com, Synapta was also selected as expert consultant to support the Italian Chamber of Deputies in its efforts to monitor public spending in the digitisation of the public administration ("Commissione parlamentare di inchiesta sul livello di digitalizzazione e innovazione delle pubbliche amministrazioni e sugli investimenti complessivi riguardanti il settore delle tecnologie dell'informazione e della comunicazione", i.e., Inquiry committee of the Parliament on the level of digitisation and innovation of public administrations and on the overall investments concerning the ICT sector). Thanks to a collaboration with Synapta and our corporate partner CELI, a modified version of Public-Contracts.com is also currently used by the ICT Consortium of the Piedmont Region in Italy (CSI Piemonte) and by the local observatory on public contracts to develop a knowledge base, a semantic search engine and related data visualizations concerning public procurement in the area (one of the more economically relevant regions in Italy).

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Synapta also develops projects in the Cultural Heritage and Digital Humanities domains, with entities such as MiBAC-ICCD (the Central Institute for Catalog and Documentation of the Italian Ministry for cultural heritage), Wikimedia Italy, Wikimedia Switzerland and CEI (the Italian Episcopal Conference).

Synapta has won the following startup funding and awards:

completed the Fundamenta#3 acceleration programme of SocialFare / Rinascimenti Sociali (<http://rinascimentsociali.org/fundamenta-eng/>), which was concluded in July 2017

investment plan supported by the Torino Social Innovation (<http://www.torinosocialinnovation.it/english/>) FaciliTO programme (City of Turin)

selected amongst the regional winners of the StartUp Europe Awards 2016 – category: Social Innovation.

selected and took part in the StartUp Initiative programme of Intesa SanPaolo (<http://www.startupinitiative.com/>).

investment plan and entry into the share capital of Oltre Venture, the first Italian company of Social Venture Capital, which allowed ContrattiPubblici.org to evolve from a pilot project to the company's flagship product (June 2018).

mentioned as the Italian best-practice for public open data re-use, in the "Open Data Maturity in Europe - Report 2018" by European Data Portal and European Commission. (January 2019)

first prize in the Call to co-creation for the consultation platform of the General Catalog of Cultural Heritage, by Italian Ministry for cultural heritage

"Premio Agenda Digitale - Entrepreneurship at the service of the Public Administration 2019" of the Digital Agenda Observatory of the Polytechnic of Milan (December 2019)

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## > Contacts

**Address:** Via San Quintino 31 - Torino

**Email:** [amministrazione@synapta.it](mailto:amministrazione@synapta.it)

**Website:** <https://synapta.it>

